

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Times 47  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

Date 23 FEB 1990

# Former CIA deputy calls for tougher espionage laws

By Bill Gertz  
 THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The U.S. government needs new espionage laws to counter the continuing problem of Americans selling secrets, a former high-ranking intelligence official said yesterday.

Retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, a former deputy CIA director and one-time critic of strong counterespionage efforts, said in a breakfast speech that new laws are needed to thwart Americans with access to secrets who volunteer to spy.

"I think we need to begin re-looking at the whole counterintelligence issue by saying what are modifications and clarifications in the existing statutes, and what are additional [laws], albeit of lesser overall severity, but that offer a much greater prospect that anybody who sells secrets is going to go to jail," Mr. Inman told a gathering of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

New spy statutes would be "a very strong plus for deterrence" inside government because current law requires prosecutors to prove a spy intended to harm U.S. security by his actions.

"We've got one case that has certainly been very prominent on television where the individual is likely to never be prosecuted," he said.

"But if one in fact had the law that, for a government official who had access to classified information, who had a meeting with an agent of a foreign power and did not report that meeting, he would be subject to prosecution."

Mr. Inman referred to the highly publicized case of suspended State Department official Felix Bloch, who is suspected of spying for the Soviet Union. Mr. Bloch, according to American intelligence officials, was filmed meeting a KGB agent in Europe, although he has not been

charged.

Mr. Inman, who also served as chief of naval intelligence and director of the National Security Agency, also said continued funding and manpower for counterintelligence is needed in the coming decade.

He is now working as one of three special advisers for counterintelligence reform to the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, according to committee officials.

Eli Jacobs, a multimillionaire financier and owner of the Baltimore Orioles, and Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr., White House counsel in the Reagan administration, are also part of the study group.

The trio has been briefed by the various U.S. intelligence agencies responsible for counterintelligence and is expected to make its recommendations to committee chairman David Boren, Oklahoma Republican, and vice chairman William Cohen, Maine Republican, sometime this spring.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, who also spoke during a question session, said he supports the idea of reforming espionage laws. Press leaks, foreign intelligence officers and American

spies, currently dealt with under one set of spy laws, should be treated by separate statutes, he said.

"We're trying to apply these same laws to our traitors," he said.

CIA Director William Webster, who also attended the speech, said in an interview afterward that he suggested a revision of espionage laws to Mr. Inman and Mr. Jacobs because of "asymmetries" in current law that make it difficult to prosecute some cases.

Mr. Webster said he favors the revision but noted that "sometimes Congress doesn't want to take that on."